CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A method in a computer system for sharing system resource data between two or more applications running as separate processes, said method comprising:

obtaining the resource data from a source of system resources and storing a shared copy of the resource data;

receiving one or more resource data requests from the applications;

processing the resource data requests by accessing the shared copy of the resource data; and

communicating the processed resource data requests to the respective applications.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising creating an instance of a central server and establishing a separate communications interface in the server for each application.

3.   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the central server is a central font cache server.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said obtaining step includes creating an instance of a central data store and storing the resource data in the central data store.

5.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the central data store is a font cache store.

6.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said processing step includes transferring the resource data requests from a central server to the data store.

7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein said communicating step includes transferring at least a portion of the resource data from the data store to the respective applications.

8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein said transferring at least a portion of the resource data includes utilizing a fast access array.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising refreshing the resource data.

10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein said refreshing step includes:

creating a resource data update window;

receiving communications from the resource data source; and

obtaining a new shared copy of the resource data.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said step of receiving communications includes receiving an update resource data message from an operating system.

12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the update resource data message is an update graphics display interface/font resource data message.

13. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the resource data is graphics display interface font resource data.

14. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the applications are single document interface applications.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein each instance of the single document interface applications is selected from a group consisting of a word processing application, a spreadsheet application and a database application.

16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the single document interface applications are created from a single software platform.

17. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

18. A method for sharing graphics device interface (GDI)/font resource data between multiple instances of single document interface (SDI) applications, said method comprising:

obtaining a copy of the GDI/font resource data to be shared with at least two of the SDI applications;

receiving font data process requests from the SDI applications;

processing the font data requests using the shared copy of the GDI/font resource data; and

communicating the processed font data requests to the SDI applications.

19. The method as recited in claim 18 further comprising refreshing the shared copy of the GDI/font resource data.

20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein said refreshing step includes:

creating a font cache window;

receiving communications from a resource source; and

obtaining a new shared copy of the GDI/font resource data.

21. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein said step of receiving communications includes receiving an update GDI/font resource data message from an operating system.

22.   The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising communicating to the SDI applications commands to acquire the new copy of the GDI/font resource data.

23.   The method as recited in claim 18, wherein said obtaining step includes creating a central font cache store and storing the shared copy in the central font cache store.

24.   The method as recited in claim 23, wherein said step of receiving font data process requests includes establishing a separate communications interface for each SDI application.

25.   The method as recited in claim 24, wherein said processing step includes transferring the font data requests to a central font cache store having stored thereto the shared copy of the GDI/font resource data.

26.   The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said communicating step includes transferring at least a portion of the GDI/font resource data from the central font cache store to the applications.

27.   The method as recited in claim 26, wherein said step of transferring at least a portion of the GDI/font resource data includes utilizing a fast access array.

28.   The method as recited in claim 27, wherein the GDI/font resource data includes a system handle to a system font and at least one attribute of the system font.

29.   The method as recited in claim 28, wherein each instance of the SDI applications is selected from a group consisting of a word processing application, a spreadsheet application, and a database application.

30.   The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the SDI applications are created from a single software platform.

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31.   A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 30.

32.   A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, said processor being operable to execute the steps recited in claim 30.

33.   A cross-process resource sharing system, said system comprising:

a central data server;

a central data store, wherein said central data server establishes a communications link between said central data store and a client application;

wherein said central data store contains shared system resource data and is adapted to communicate at least a portion of the system resource data to the client application over the communications link in response to resource data requests from the client application; and

an update communications server connected to said central data server, said update communications server being further connected to a resource source to provide a communications link between said central data server and the resource source.

34.   The system as recited in claim 33, wherein said system resource is graphics display interface/font resource data.

35.   The system as recited in claim 34, wherein said central data server is a central font cache server.

36.   The system as recited in claim 34, wherein said central data store is a font cache store.

37.   The system as recited in claim 34, wherein said update communications server is a font cache update window.

38.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

obtaining a copy of resource data from a source of resource data;

receiving data process requests from one or more client applications;

processing the resource data requests by sharing the copy of the resource data; and

communicating the processed resource data requests to the respective applications.

39.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 38, further comprising instructions for creating an instance of a central server and establishing a separate communications interface for each application.

40.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 39, wherein the central server is a central font cache server.

41.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 38, wherein said obtaining step includes creating an instance of a central data store and storing the resource data in the central data store.

42.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the central data store is a font cache store.

43.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein said processing step includes transferring the data requests to the data store.

44.   The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 43, wherein said communicating step includes transferring at least a portion of the resource data from the data store to the applications.

45. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 44, wherein the resource data transfer utilizes a fast access array.

46. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 54, further comprising instructions for refreshing the resource data.

47. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 46, wherein said refreshing step includes:

creating a resource data update window;

receiving communications from a resource data source; and

obtaining a new copy of the resource data.

48. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 47, wherein said step of receiving communications from the source includes receiving an update resource data message from an operating system.

49. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the update resource data message is an update graphics display interface/font resource data message.

50. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 38, wherein the resource data is graphics display interface font resource data.

51. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 38, wherein the applications are single document interface applications.

52. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 51, wherein each instance of the single document interface applications is selected from a group consisting of a word processing application, a spreadsheet application and a database application.

53. The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 52, wherein the single document interface applications are created from a single software platform.

54.   A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, said processor being operable to execute the instructions stored on the computer-readable medium of claim 38.